

ABSTRACT

A fixing apparatus is provided that enables a recording medium that has undergone heat-fixing to be separated smoothly from a heating medium without causing a sheet jam or image disturbance. In this apparatus, there are provided on the guide surface 260a of a separator 260 two step parts 260b and 260c raised along the guide surface 260a guide width direction. Recording paper P is transported gripped by a fixing nip N, is guided so as to come into contact with only the apex parts of step parts 260b and 260c, and is separated from the surface of a fixing belt 230. By this means, a gap is formed between guide surface 260a and the heat-fixing surface of recording paper P guided along guide surface 260a, the contact area between the heat-fixing surface of recording paper P and guide surface 260a decreases, the heat-fixing surface of recording paper P becomes less prone to adhere to guide surface 260a of separator 260, and recording paper P is separated smoothly from fixing belt 230 without causing a sheet jam or image disturbance.